

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the application is requested.

Claims 1-6, 9-23, 25-38, 40-56, and 58-63 remain in the application. Claims 1-6, 9-23, 25-38, 40-56, and 58-63 are subject to examination. Claims 1, 9, 15, 31, and 47 have been amended.

Under the heading "Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 103" on page 2 of the above-identified Office Action, claims 1-6, 9-23, 25-38, 40-56, and 58-63 have been rejected as being obvious over U.S. Patent No. 6,657,952 to Shiragaki et al. in view of Published U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0206527 A1 to Yim under 35 U.S.C. § 103.

Claims 1, 9, 15, 31, and 47 have been amended to better define the invention. Support for the changes can be found by referring to the application at page 16, lines 4-8 and at page 18, lines 1-5, for example.

Claims 1, 9, and 15 have been amended to specify: wherein when one of said plurality of said transceivers initiates a transmission of the communication information on said communication bus, the one of said plurality of said transceivers simultaneously transmits the communication information in the clockwise direction and in the counterclockwise direction.

Claims 31 and 47 have similarly been amended to specify: wherein when one of said plurality of said transceivers initiates a transmission of the information to be transmitted on said communication bus, the one of said plurality of said transceivers simultaneously transmits the information to be transmitted in the clockwise direction and in the counterclockwise direction.

The claimed invention is directed towards a transceiver that simultaneously transmits an item of communication information on a communication bus in both the clockwise and counterclockwise directions.

Shiragaki et al. teaches nothing relating to a simultaneous transmission of an item of communication information. The system in Shiragaki et al. first transmits an item of information in one direction on the working ring.

Presumably, the transmission direction is chosen depending upon which direction provides the shorter or quicker path to the destination node. Shiragaki et al. specifically teach that after a fault is detected, the item of information, which was initially transmitted on the working ring, is subsequently retransmitted in the opposite direction on the protection ring (see column 6, lines 34-41, for example).

Similarly, Yim teaches that one transmission direction is chosen depending upon which direction avoids traffic congestion (see paragraph 40, for example).

Therefore, even if there were a suggestion to modify the teaching in Shiragaki et al. based on the teaching in Yim, the invention as now defined by claims 1, 9, 15, 31, and 47 would not have been obtained.

It is accordingly believed to be clear that none of the references, whether taken alone or in any combination, either show or suggest the features of claims 1, 9, 15, 31, or 47. Claims 1, 9, 15, 31, and 47 are, therefore, believed to be patentable over the art. The dependent claims are believed to be patentable as well because they all are ultimately dependent on claim 1, 9, 15, 31, or 47.

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration and allowance of claims 1-6, 9-23, 25-38, 40-56, and 58-63 are solicited.

In the event the Examiner should still find any of the claims to be unpatentable, counsel would appreciate receiving a telephone call so that, if possible, patentable language can be worked out.

Petition for extension is herewith made. The extension fee for response within a period of one month pursuant to Section 1.136(a) in the amount of \$120.00 in accordance with Section 1.17 is enclosed herewith.

Please charge any other fees that might be due with respect to Sections 1.16 and 1.17 to the Deposit Account of Lerner Greenberg Sterner LLP, No. 12-1099.

Appl. No. 10/021,705
Reply to Office Action of May 15, 2008
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Respectfully submitted,

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MPW:cgm

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